

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

Claim 9 is currently being cancelled.

Claims 1, 14 and 20 are currently being amended.

No claims are currently being added.

This amendment and reply amends and cancels claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending and canceling the claims as set forth above, claims 1-8 and 10-20 are now pending in this application.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicant appreciates the indication in the Office Action that claim 9 contains allowable subject matter. By way of this amendment and reply, presently pending independent claim 1 has been amended to include the features of "objected to" (and now canceled) claim 9, and thus presently pending independent claim 1 (as well as claims 2-8 and 10-11 that depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1) are now in allowable form based on the indications made in the Office Action with respect to claim 9. Also, by way of this amendment and reply, presently pending independent claims 14 and 20 have each been amended to include the features of "objected to" (and now canceled) claim 9, and thus presently pending independent claims 14 and 20 (as well as claims 15-10 that depend either directly or indirectly from claim 14) are now believed to be in allowable form based on the indications made in the Office Action with respect to claim 9.

Claim Rejections – Prior Art:

In the Office Action, claims 1-8 and 10-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,130,091 to Ishimaru et al. Due to the amendments made to presently pending independent claims 1, 14 and 20 so that they now each include the features of "objected to" claim 9, this rejection is now believed to be moot.

Conclusion:

Since all of the issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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